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5

ART BY YOUN-KYUNG KIM STORY BY HEE-JOON SON

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STAGE 28
EASTER EGG HUNT

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!

EVEN METEO BOUNCES OFF HOLY CROSS!

IS THAT SO? THEN WHY ARE YOUR PANTIES SMOKING?
MAYBE THERE'S A FIRE DOWN BELOW?
THE WHOLE POINT OF HOLY CROSS IS THAT IT CAN'T BE OVERWHELMED BY MORE POWERFUL MAGIC. IT'S IMPENETRABLE!
화르륵
OH, REALLY?
YOW!!

MAYBE WE'RE USING DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF "IMPENETRABLE."
비틀
OW! SHOULDER ON FIRE..
MISTRESS!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PRETTY BOY? DON'T LIKE ME GETTING YOUR GIRL HOT 'N BOTHERED?
GRRR...
GIVE US A LITTLE ALONE TIME. WE'RE HAVING A MOMENT HERE.
DON'T BE SO SELFISH! I'M LETTING YOU PLAY WITH YUREKA.
HE'S TRYING TO DISTRACT ME. IF I DROP MY GUARD EVEN A LITTLE, YUREKA'S GOING TO SKEWER ME!
NOW WHERE WERE WE? OH YEAH, WE WERE GOING TO PLAY HOT POTATO!

I'VE GOT YOU ALL FIGURED OUT!
YEAH? TELL MY SHRINK.
YOU'RE USING FUSION MAGIC, RIGHT?
BY COMBINING SPELLS, YOU'RE CREATING A COMPLETELY NEW EFFECT!
YOU'VE GOT A FIREBALL IN YOUR RIGHT HAND, BUT IN YOUR LEFT, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE THAT AMPLIFIES IT!
CLOSE! BUT NO CIGAR!

I DON'T GET IT. WE PROGRAMMED HOLY CROSS TO REPEL ALL MAGIC!
VERY UNUSUAL.
IT'S MORE THAN UNUSUAL! HOLY CROSS CAN'T JUST BE CANCELED OUT BY MORE POWERFUL MAGIC! IT'S IMPENETRABLE!
THINK HE'S A HACKER?
IF SO, USING A CHEAT LIKE THAT IN A TOURNAMENT WOULD MAKE HIM THE DUMBEST HACKER EVER!
RELAX, DUKE. I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
REALLY? CARE TO LET ME IN ON THE SECRET?
EVER HEAR OF AN EASTER EGG?

DID YOU JUST SAY...EASTER EGG?!!

I DON'T SEE ANY BIG FREAKIN' BUNNIES DOWN THERE, DO YOU BOSS?!

ADDRESS YOUR SOVEREIGN IN THE PROPER TONE, OR I'LL HAVE YOU DRAWN AND QUARTERED!
부들
부들
FORGIVE ME, YOUR HIGHNESS... O'W...

IT WAS BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS OF DEXON. WE WERE RACING TO FINISH *LOST SAGA*...

AT THE TIME, WE HAD A PROGRAMMER CALLED DR. J. HE COULD CONJURE UP CODE LIKE NO ONE HAD EVER SEEN. I'VE NEVER MET A MORE BRILLIANT PROGRAMMER.

HE CONCEIVED *LOST SAGA*. IT WAS HIS BABY.

BACK THEN, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE SOFTWARE WE DO NOW. SO CODING THE GAME WAS A MONUMENTAL TASK.

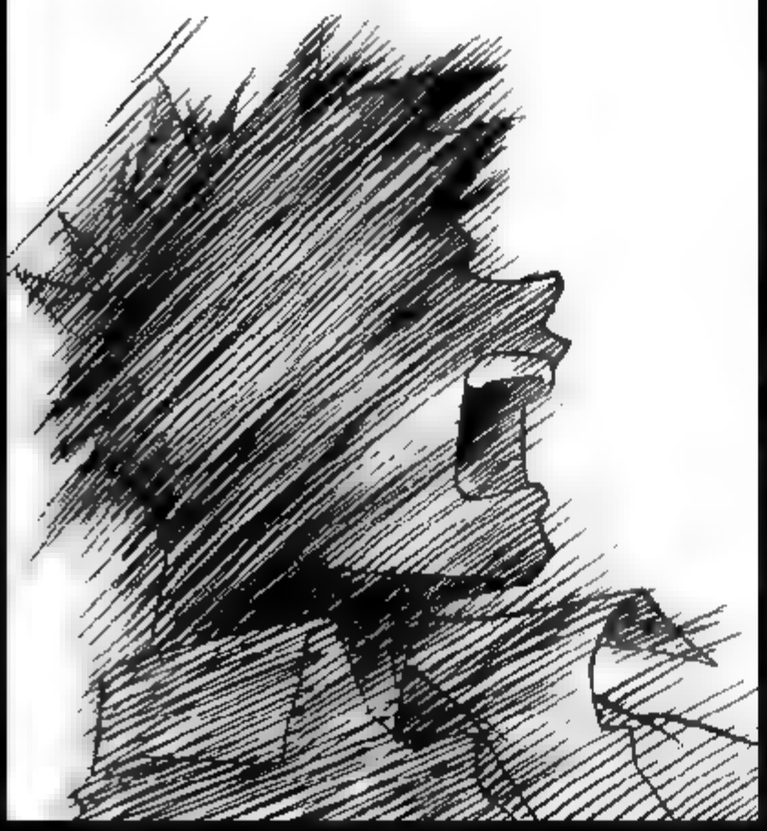
IT DIDN'T HELP THAT HE WAS A PERFECTIONIST. HE HAD HALF THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM FANTASIZING ABOUT POISONING HIS COFFEE.

YOU THINK THIS IS JUST ANOTHER GAME?
WE ARE CREATING ANOTHER WORLD HERE! A PERFECT WORLD!
SINCE IT WAS HIS WAY OR NO WAY, HE OFTEN ENDED UP DOING EVERYTHING HIMSELF.
IN THE END, HE PROBABLY DID THE WORK OF TEN MEN.
YO, DOC! YOU SLEEP HERE AGAIN LAST NIGHT?
SLEEP? WHO'S GOT TIME TO SLEEP?
THE LORD DIDN'T REST UNTIL THERE WERE FISH IN THE SEA, BIRDS IN THE AIR AND PEOPLE SCREWING UP HIS GARDEN.

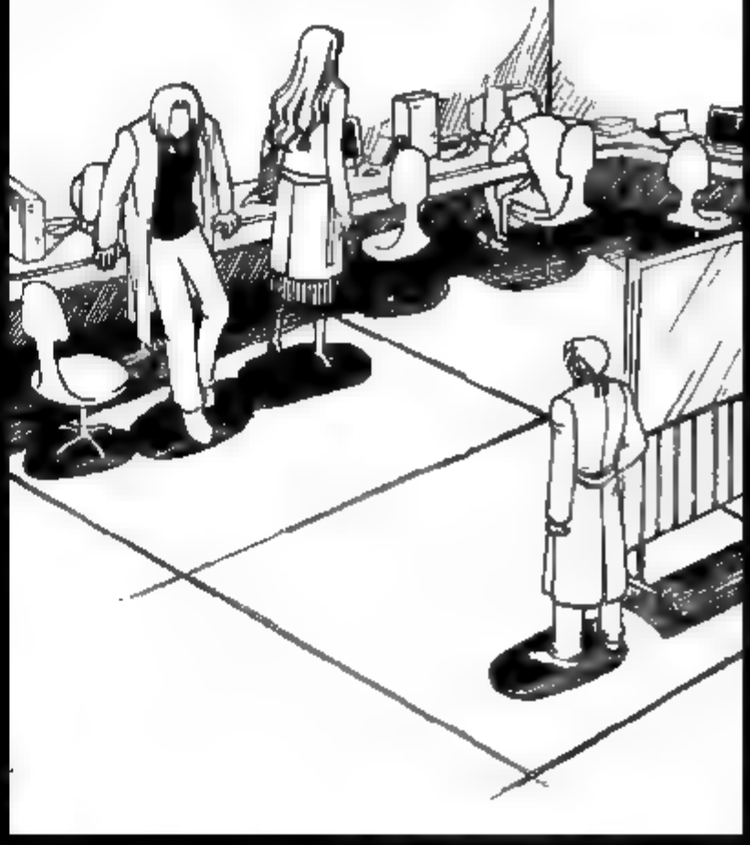
HE WAS A TRUE GENIUS. HE SAW THE WORLD AS A CHILD DOES, FULL OF POSSIBILITIES.
MY LORD, THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT'S THAT?
EVERY TIME I ASK YOU A QUESTION, I GET WHACKED.
HOW COME YOU LET A PROGRAMMER TALK TO YOU LIKE THAT?
QUIT ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS! AND DON'T INTERRUPT.
MY APOLOGIES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AS I WAS SAYING...
.....

YOUR STUPID JABBERING MADE ME FORGET WHAT I WAS SAYING! WHERE WAS I?!
YOU WERE TELLING ME HOW HARD DEVELOPING LOST SAGA WAS! GO ON! IT'S FASCINATING!
화들짝
.....
OF COURSE... WE WERE APPROACHING A CRITICAL DEADLINE...
...WHEN WE LOST HIM. SUCH A SHAME.
YOU LOST HIM?
WAS IT TO TELESOFT? THEY STEAL ALL OUR BEST EMPLOYEES.

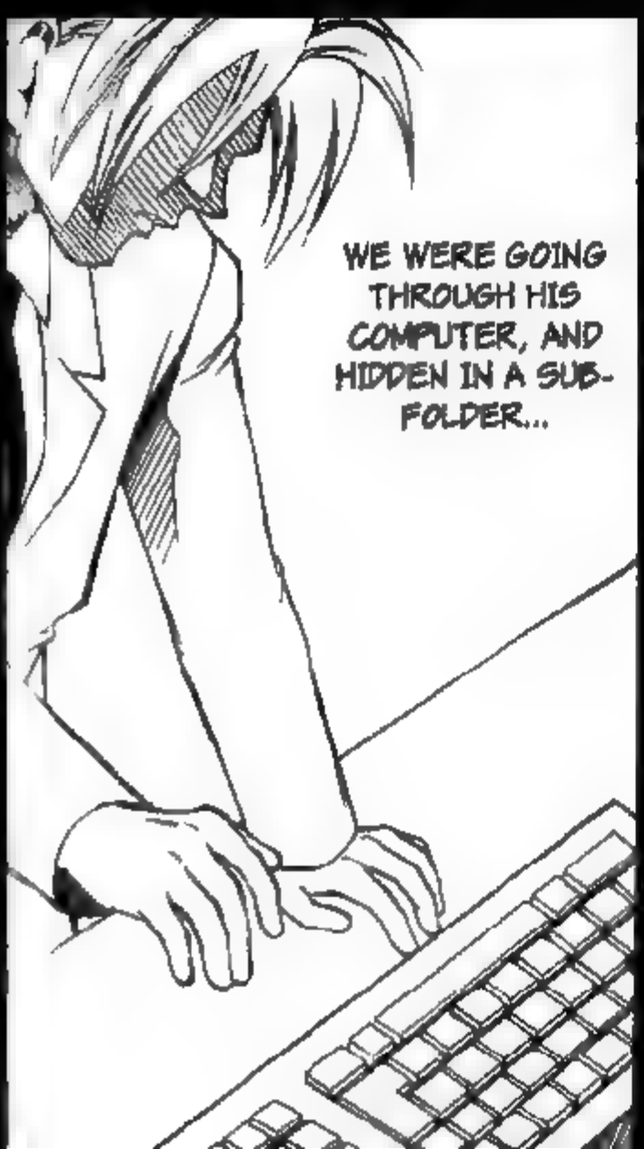
NO, YOU IDIOT! THERE WAS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT. I SUPPOSE IT MUST HAVE BEEN HIS DESTINY.



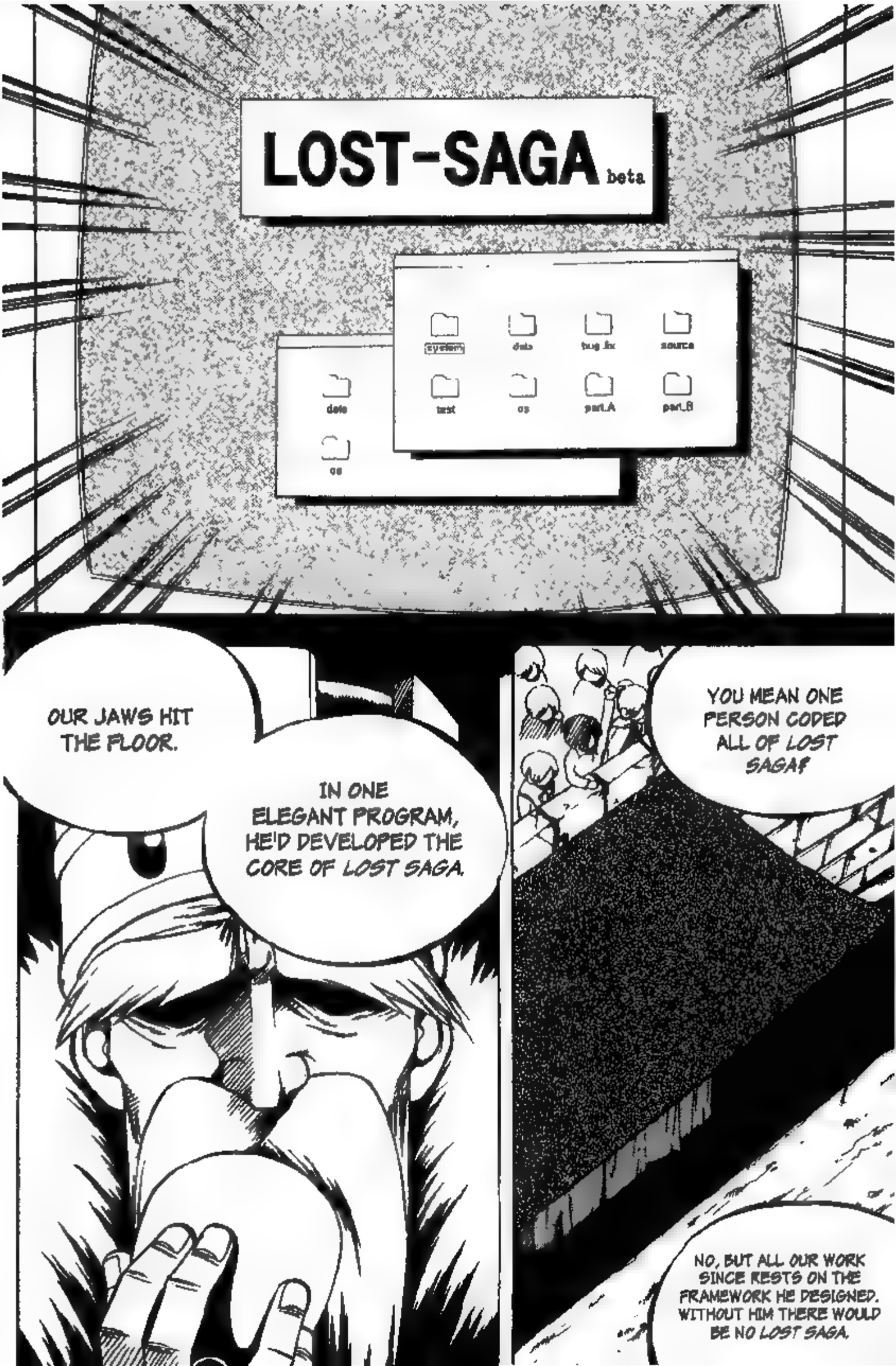
WITHOUT HIM, WE DIDN'T KNOW IF WE'D EVEN BE ABLE TO FINISH *LOST SAGA*. THERE WERE INCREDIBLE OBSTACLES THAT WE HAD NO IDEA HOW TO OVERCOME.

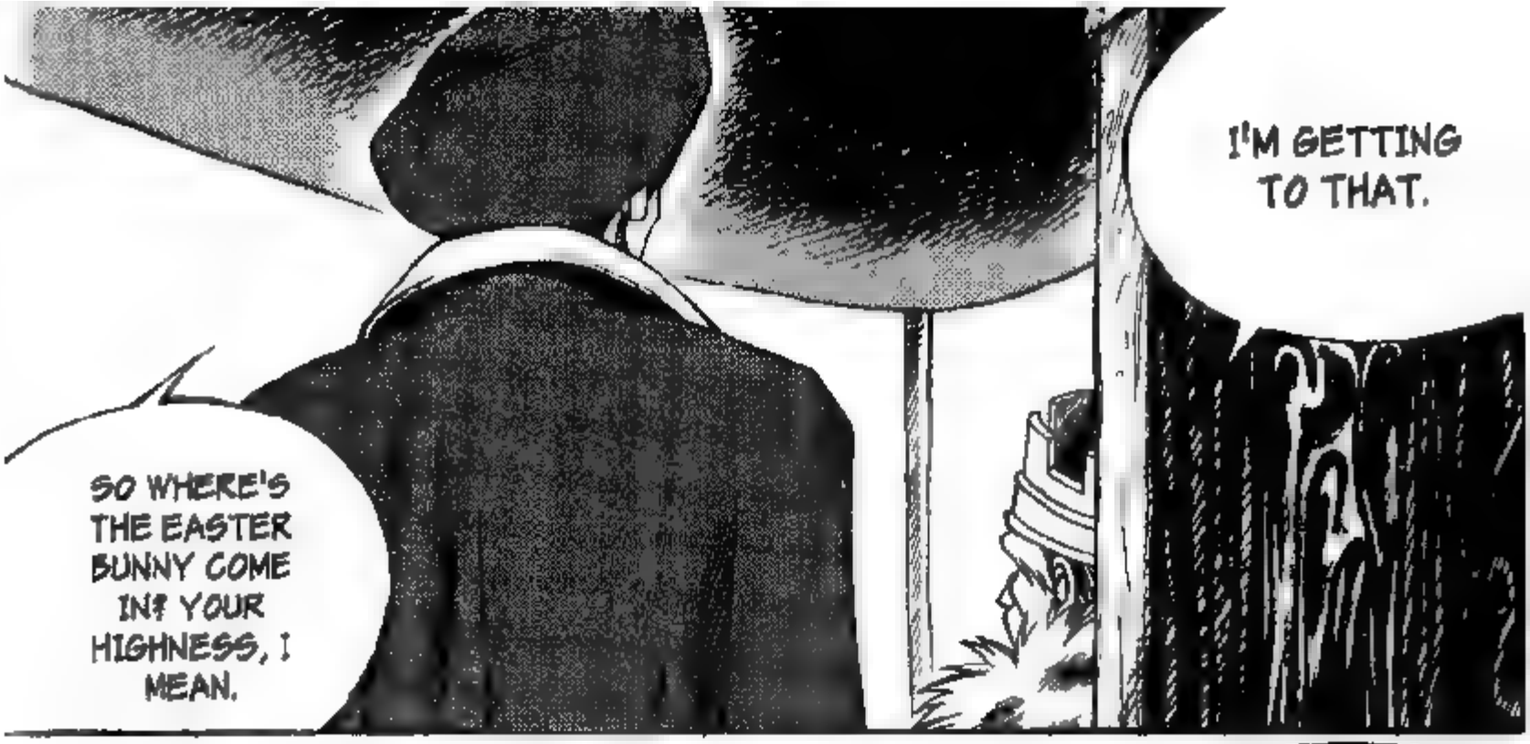


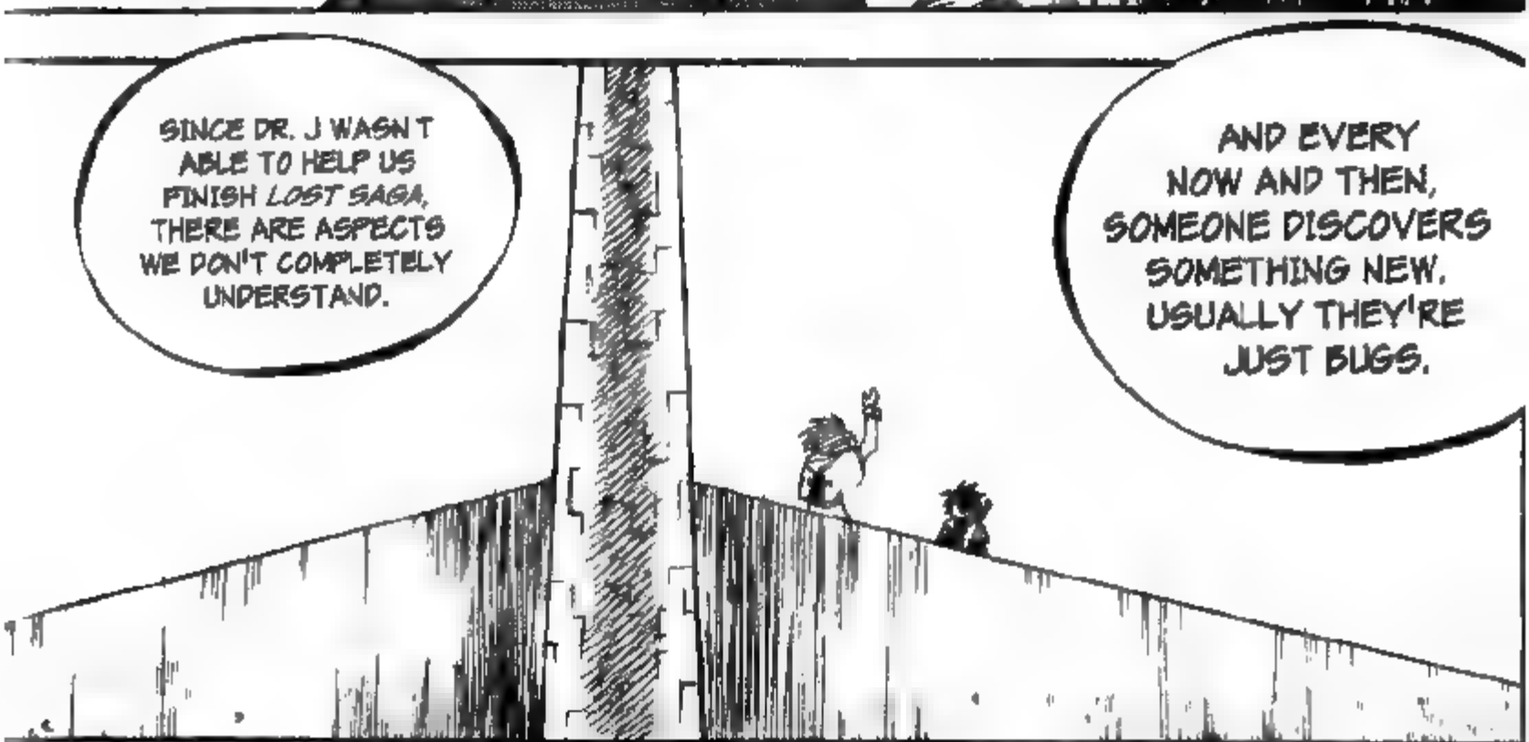
WE WERE GOING THROUGH HIS COMPUTER, AND HIDDEN IN A SUB-FOLDER...



...WE FOUND A WORKING VERSION!


LOST-SAGA beta
system
data
bug_fix
source
data
test
os
part_A
part_B
os
OUR JAWS HIT THE FLOOR.
IN ONE ELEGANT PROGRAM, HE'D DEVELOPED THE CORE OF LOST SAGA.
YOU MEAN ONE PERSON CODED ALL OF LOST SAGA?
NO, BUT ALL OUR WORK SINCE RESTS ON THE FRAMEWORK HE DESIGNED. WITHOUT HIM THERE WOULD BE NO LOST SAGA.


SO WHERE'S THE EASTER BUNNY COME IN? YOUR HIGHNESS, I MEAN.
I'M GETTING TO THAT.


SINCE DR. J WASN'T ABLE TO HELP US FINISH *LOST SAGA*, THERE ARE ASPECTS WE DON'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.
AND EVERY NOW AND THEN, SOMEONE DISCOVERS SOMETHING NEW. USUALLY THEY'RE JUST BUGS.

BUT SOMETIMES THEY'RE SURPRISES HIDDEN BY DR. J IN THE GAME'S CODE, KIND OF LIKE EASTER EGGS.
EASTER EGG
WARNING!!

THE ONES WE'VE FOUND GIVE PLAYERS ALL SORTS OF STRANGE ABILITIES. AND I'LL BET WE HAVEN'T UNLOCKED HALF OF THEM!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF WHAT WE'RE SEEING NOW IS A RECENTLY DISCOVERED EASTER EGG.

I WILL FORGE A PERFECT NEW WORLD!
A WORLD THAT WILL EVOLVE WITH ITS INHABITANTS!
THE DOCTOR WOVE HIS SECRETS INTO INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE CODE, SO EVEN IF WE FOUND THEM, WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO ROOT THEM OUT
HE BELIEVED IT WAS EVERY PLAYER'S RIGHT TO FIND SURPRISES AND USE THEM TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE GAME.
OUT OF RESPECT FOR HIS VISION, WE'VE ENCOURAGED PLAYERS TO SEEK OUT THESE SURPRISES.
.....

SINCE YOU'RE SO HOT TO KNOW....
...I'LL LET YOU IN ON MY LITTLE SECRET.

화악
IN MY RIGHT HAND IS AN ORDINARY FIREBALL, ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE SPELLS.

AND IN MY LEFT HAND IS THE SHIELD OF PERSEUS. IT'S A LOW-LEVEL SPELL THAT REFLECTS MAGIC BACK THE WAY IT CAME FROM!

I DON'T GET IT.

PATIENCE. I'M GETTING TO THE GOOD PART. FIRST I CAST THE SHIELD ON MYSELF
THEN I AIM THE FIREBALL AT MY CHEST, AND IT JUST BOUNCES OFF!!
YAAA!!
KIND OF LIKE A BANK SHOT! PRETTY COOL, HUH?
.....

I GOT THE IDEA FROM THIS OLD TABLETOP RPG. I TRIED TO COUNTER REFLECTIVE MAGIC WITH REFLECTIVE MAGIC.
DIDN'T WORK SO WELL. IF A SPELL IS REFLECTED ONCE, IT'LL PASS THROUGH ANY OTHER MAGICAL BARRIER!
GOOD THING TO KNOW, RIGHT?
KIND OF SUCKS THAT IT HALVES THE SPELL'S POWER, THOUGH.
SO I CAN'T JUST PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY! SORRY!
CALL YOUR SHOT! WHERE DO YOU WANT THE NEXT ONE?!
MWA HA HA HA!
OHHH

It's gettin' hot in here!

YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
DID I DO THAT?
DANG! FLASHING THE ENTIRE ARENA! YOU'RE SUCH A FLIRT WHEN YOU'RE LIT UP!
TSK!
WHAT WOULD YOUR MOM SAY?
YOU PERV!
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!!
YEAH RIGHT, YOU FLAT-CHESTED LITTLE PEANUT! YOU IN YOUR SKIVVIES MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE!
Remember Rcto likes older women
THINK THAT'S A VIOLATION OF THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY?
NO... BUT I'M MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY. VERY CLOSELY.
...but the Duke likes younger ones.

WAY TO GO, ROTO! TAKE OFF SOME MORE!!
SLOWLY! SLOWLY! IT'S TOO SWEET A JOB TO RUSH!

HEY, LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STARTING A FAN CLUB FOR YOU! YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT THEM WOULD YOU?

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!!

WATCH ME!!
OR CLOSE YOUR EYES. MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

YAARRGH!!

UGHHH....
DYING...

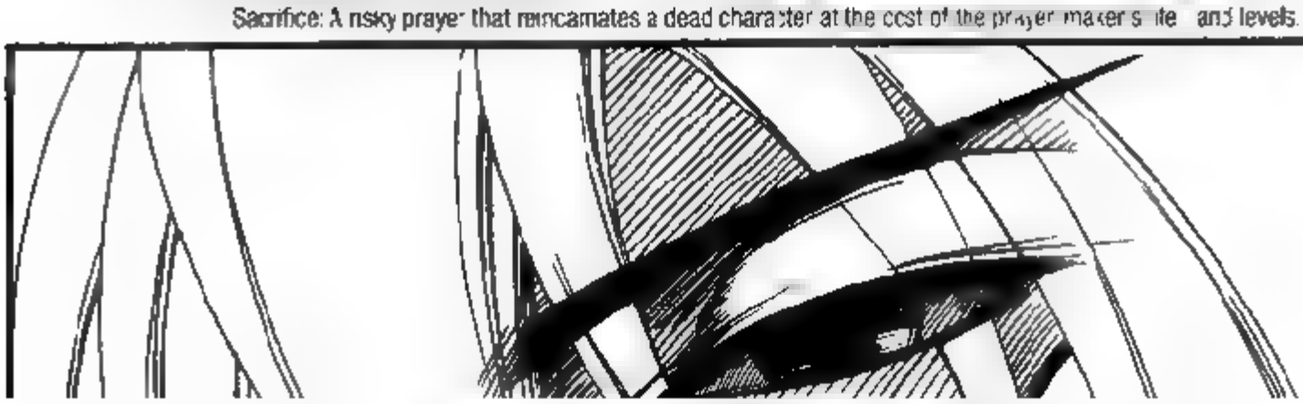
JOHN!!!
MISTRESS . I TRIED
NO!!!

WHY, JOHN! IF I DIE, I JUST HAVE TO REBOOT!
BUT YOU, YOU'RE GONE FOREVER!!
NOOOOO!!

.....
IT'S NOT TOO LATE...
WE'VE GOT ONE LAST CHANCE.
...I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET, GIRLIE!!

ERGH?
GODDESS, BEFORE YOU A LIFE FLICKERS LIKE A FLAME. GIVE HIM THE GIFT OF LIFE, LIVED TWICE.
TOK
...THROUGH THE POWER OF YOUR NAME, AND MY...
...SACRIFICE!!
TOK

Sacrifice: A risky prayer that reincarnates a dead character at the cost of the prayer maker's life and levels.



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STAGE 29
HUMAN SACRIFICE

¡¡¿…
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WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GIRL?!

SACRIFICE?

FOR A GUARDIAN?

SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF?!

WHEN THEIR MANA IS SPENT, A PRIEST CAN STILL USE THEIR LIFE FORCE TO RESURRECT ANOTHER CHARACTER!

WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

SOMETHING IN MY TEETH!

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT SACRIFICE, THOUGH. BUT YOU DIDN'T MENTION WHAT A CRAPSHOOT IT IS.

REALLY? HOW SO?

WELL, I'VE NEVER USED IT ON YOU GUYS, HAVE I?

NOPE. YOU SURE HAVEN'T.

KNOW WHY NOT?

BECAUSE YOU'RE WAAAAY TOO SELFISH! AND WE'D GET TO KEEP PLAYING WHILE YOU HAD TO START OVER!

YOU GOT IT.

WAIT A SECOND! WHAT KIND OF JERK DO YOU THINK I AM?!

GRRR!!

WELL, SINCE YOU'RE ASKING--

SHUT IT! AND LET ME FILL YOU IN ON WHY THAT PRAYER REALLY IS A SACRIFICE.

TSK

HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. I'D NEVER LET AH-DOL AND ROTO GET AHEAD OF ME LIKE THAT...

TAG IN!

THROUGH THE SACRIFICE PRAYER...

I DIE, YOU DIE!

DIDN'T I JUST KILL YOU?!

...A PLAYER TRANSFERS THEIR LIFE FORCE TO ANOTHER CHARACTER...

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. ESPECIALLY IF IT KEEPS A MORE POWERFUL PLAYER IN THE MIX.

THE PARTY FINISHES THEIR QUEST AND THE HEALER RESPAWNS TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY. RIGHT?

WHAT KIND OF CATCH?

YEAH, WELL, THERE'S A CATCH.

ON YOUR RESUR-RECTION, YOU'RE RE-ROLLED.

NO WAY!

YEAH. YOUR SKILL LEVELS, YOUR HIT POINTS, YOUR MAGIC ABILITIES ARE ALL RANDOMLY RESET. SO EVERYTHING YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD TO BOOST...

....ALL THAT'S PROBABLY OUT THE WINDOW. EVEN THEN, YOUR LIFE FORCE MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO BRING BACK YOUR PARTNER.

THE HIGHER YOUR LEVEL IS, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCE OF SUCCESS. FOR EXAMPLE, A 90TH LEVEL PRIEST HAS ABOUT A 70% CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

SO IT REALLY IS A SACRIFICE!

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

BUT HERE'S THE REAL KICKER.

EVEN IF THE PRAYER IS SUCCESSFUL, THE RESURRECTED CHARACTER MIGHT NOT COME BACK AT FULL STRENGTH.

WHAT?!

THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?!

IF BOTH OF YOU COME BACK CRIPPLED, AREN'T YOU BETTER OFF JUST BITING THE BULLET AND RESPAWNING AT FULL STRENGTH?

SACRIFICE SOUNDS LIKE A BAD BET. THE ODDS AREN'T IN YOUR FAVOR.

RAPHA IS GAMBLING BIG TO SAVE HER GUARDIAN.

HOPE SHE MAKES HER SAVING THROW.

SO, BOROMID...

...DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'LL BE DOING ANY SACRIFICING ANY TIME SOON.

OF COURSE...

...NOT!! WHY SHOULD I SACRIFICE MYSELF FOR YOUR UNGRATEFUL BUTT$!

BECAUSE I'M CUTE$

RAPHA LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ABOUT *BOTH* LEVEL.

SO HER CHANCE OF SUCCESS CAN'T BE MORE THAN *60%*.

WANT TO PUT A FIVER ON IT$

I'LL GIVE YOU 2-TO-1. WAIT, NO... 3-TO-2!

JOHN...

I'VE DONE ALL I CAN...

PLEASE, GODDESS! SHOW JOHN YOUR MERCY!

LIKE... BEFORE...

THIS IS INCREDIBLE, FOLKS!

JUST WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE ROTO'S GOING TO INCINERATE RAPHA, JOHN TAKES OUT ROTO! THEN YUREKA KILLS JOHN!

AND JUST WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE RAPHA VS. YUREKA, RAPHA TRIES TO TAG OUT AND RESURRECT JOHN!

BUT I DON'T SEE ANY MOVEMENT FROM THE GROUND. IT LOOKS LIKE YUREKA IS THE LAST PLAYER STANDING!

WAIT, WHAT'S THAT?!

ROTO

M-MISTRESS!

MISTRESS, YOU DID IT... AGAIN! THROWING AWAY YOUR LIFE, YOU'R POWER...

FOR YOUR...

...GUARDIAN.

YOU PROMISED YOU'D NEVER USE THAT PRAYER AGAIN!

NOOOO!!

GRRRR!

MY LADY...

...YOUR SACRIFICE WILL NOT BE IN VAIN!

LOOKS LIKE A SUCCESS!

CHECK OUT HIS AURA! HE'S FULLY BUFFED-OUT TOO!

THAT'S ONE-IN-A-MILLION KIND OF LUCK!

BUT IS HE STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT YUREKA?

LIGHTNING CLAW!!

YAIII!!

LOOK AT THAT LIGHTNING CLAW! SEEN THAT BEFORE?!

NOPE. I THINK HE'S IMPROVISING.

THERE IS NO LIGHTNING CLAW ATTACK.

I THINK HE'S JUST FOUND A WAY TO CAST THE LIGHTNING BOLT SPELL THROUGH HIS WEAPON.

WHICH SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. ESPECIALLY FOR AN ASSASSIN WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A GUARDIAN.

EK

IIK

IIK

FIREBALL CLAW!!

HE CAN USE *FIREBALL*, TOO?

WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?!

YIIII!!

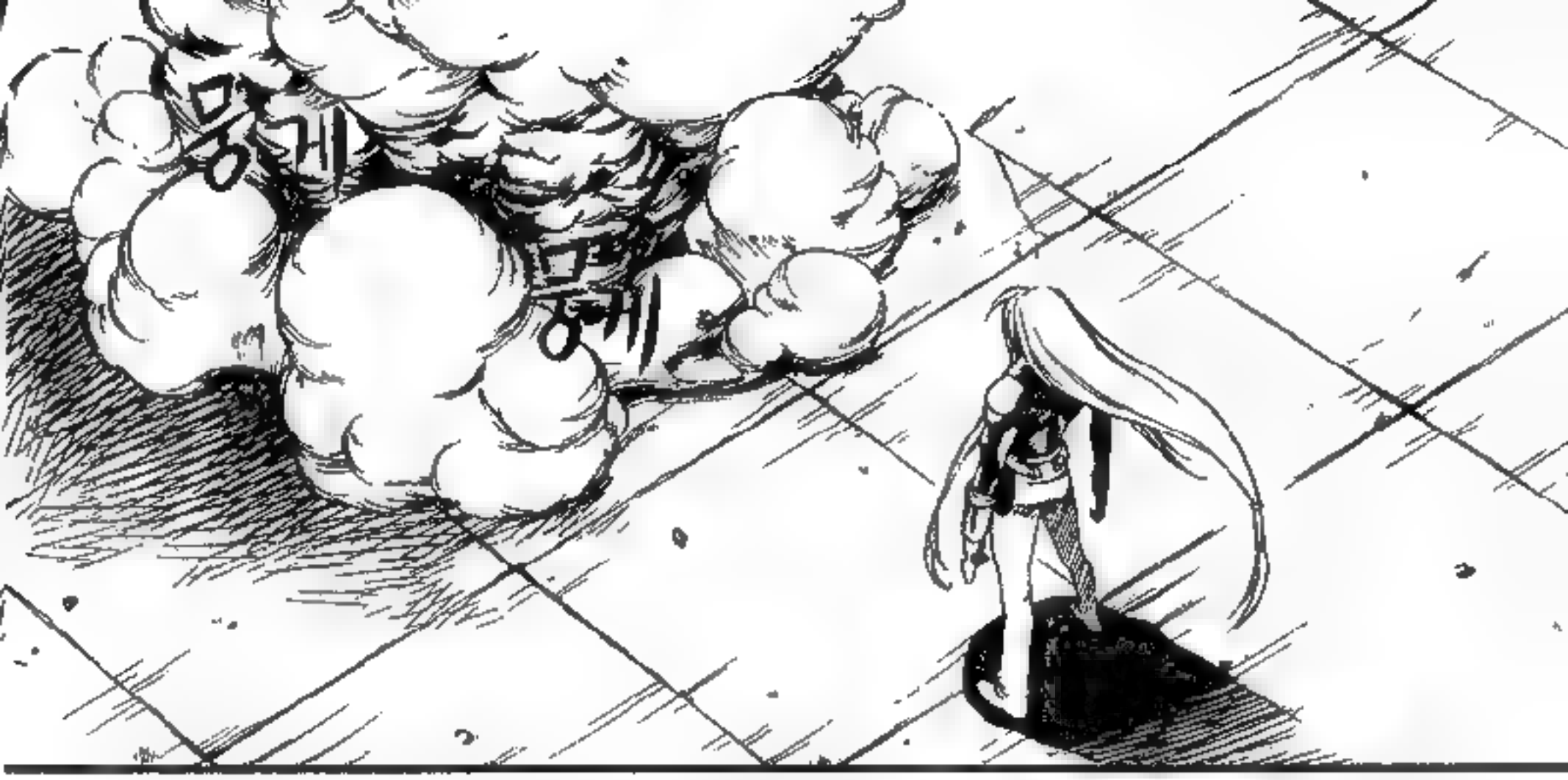
KO!

YUREKA'S BERSERK! HER DEFENSES ARE DOWN!

IF THOSE FIREBALLS CONNECT, THAT MIGHT BE IT FOR HER!!

HEY AH-DOL, RIDDLE ME THIS... HOW CAN A 20TH LEVEL ASSASSIN CAST FOUR SIMULTANEOUS FIREBALLS?

COME ON YUREKA! GET UP, GIRL!


HOW CAN THAT GUARDIAN BE USING SPELLS AT THAT LEVEL? HE MUST BE HACKED!
HOW EXTRA-ORDINARY!
I WONDER IF THIS IS...
...WHAT THE DR. INTENDED.
WHAT?! ANOTHER EASTER EGG?! NOW EVERYTHING THAT'S A LITTLE OUT OF THE ORDINARY IS AN EASTER EGG?!
QUIET, WORM! AND THINK ABOUT WHAT WE JUST SAW.

THAT CLERIC HAD FORMED SUCH A STRONG EMOTIONAL BOND WITH A COMPUTER PROGRAM...

...THAT SHE WAS WILLING TO RISK THE MONTHS OR YEARS OF WORK SHE'D PUT INTO HER CHARACTER TO SAVE IT!

AND NOW, NOT ONLY IS THE GUARDIAN ANGRY OVER HER SACRIFICE, BUT THAT ANGER IS INSPIRING HIM TO FIGHT HARDER!

THOSE ARE INCREDIBLY COMPLEX EMOTIONS FOR AN NPC!

NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT HER SACRIFICE DRAMATICALLY AMPLIFIED HIS ABILITIES!

IF THOSE TWO REALLY DID SLAY THE DRAGON MATRIA, I'LL BET THIS IS HOW THEY DID IT!

I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND DR. J'S ULTIMATE VISION.

A VIRTUAL WORLD WHERE PEOPLE...CAN BE MORE HUMAN.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT!

MAYBE I NEED TO TEACH YOU ONE FINAL LESSON!

LIGHTNING CLAW!

LIGHTNING BLADE!!

SHE'S LIKE A PARROT!! ANY ATTACK SHE SEES, SHE MIMICS PERFECTLY!

THAT'S INCRED IBLE!

AS AMPED UP AS I AM...
...SHE STILL OVER-POWERED ME!

NO--
--WAY!

LAST TIME, JOHN WAS BUFFED UP ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT THE DRAGON MATRIA!

YUREKA CAN'T BE TOUGHER THAN MATRIA! CAN SHE?!

I'M JUST GLAD THAT JOHN'S STILL ALIVE

BUT HOW GREAT WOULD IT BE IF HE ENDED UP WINNING?

INTERESTING STRATEGY. SACRIFICING YOURSELF FOR A GUARDIAN.

HUH?

Spirit mode: In spirit mode, "dead" players can watch events in the game, but they're invisible to "live" characters.

BRRR! I JUST GOT THE WILLIES!

?

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

YOU'RE PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER TRIED. I NEVER IMAGINED THE GAME WOULD REWARD YOU FOR IT!

YES, JOHN'S MORE..
HEY, I'M DEAD! HOW
CAN YOU SEE ME...?

IT'S A SKILL I PICKED UP IN MY WANDERINGS-- "SPIRIT EYE." AND THEN I JUST *HAD* TO LEARN "TONGUE OF THE DEAD."

SOMEDAY, MAYBE I'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO *TOUCH* THE DEAD. BUT THAT'S SOMEDAY.

YOU NEVER KNOW. COULD COME IN HANDY SOMETIME.

HEE HEE HEE!

I'M SURE.

HE IS SUCH A WEIRDO!

HEY, WHERE'S ROTO'S GHOST? I FIGURED YOU TWO WOULD BE HISSING AT EACH OTHER IN SPIRIT MODE!

AWWW. YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME! THAT'S SWEET.

ACTUALLY, ROTO'S GHOST SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM, MAYBE HE'S...

HEY...

...PRETTY BOY!

YOUR BACK'S AGAINST THE WALL...

HOW 'BOUT I MAKE YOU AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE!

WHAT?!

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STAGE 30
AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

YOU STILL HERE?! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!

YOU'RE RIGHT, I SHOULD BE.

BUT I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF SPELLS KEEPING ME IN THE FIGHT.

BREATHING'S GETTING TO BE A BIT OF A CHORE, THOUGH...

WOW! A SORCERER WITH HEALING SPELLS! NEAT!

WHY'S HE GET TO LIVE?! I HAD TO DIE! THAT'S NO FAIR!

SO YOU WANT TO TALK OR WHAT?

I'M A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW. TRY AND BLINDSIDE ME LATER, OKAY?

WHAT? YOU DON'T TRUST ME?

NOPE. SEEN HOW YOU FIGHT. SORRY.

LISTEN. IF YOU JUST CLEAR YOUR MIND, LET GO OF YOUR HOSTILITY...

...THEN BERSERK YUREKA WON'T SENSE AN ENEMY, AND SHE'LL CALM DOWN.

WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?!

BECAUSE IF YOU DIE THIS TIME, NO ONE'S THERE TO BRING YOU BACK.

AND RAPHA'S SACRIFICE WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!

...!!

FIREBALL BLADE!

ANYTHING I THROW AT HER, IT COMES BACK AT ME HARDER!

FLOP

IF ROTO STARTS GETTING SOME SPELLS OFF, I'M GOING TO BE IN REAL TROUBLE!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HANDLE BOTH OF THEM.

I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE.

THINK HAPPY THOUGHTS...

HMM.

GAH?

끔적

끔적

두리번 두리번

머~~

삐질

삐질

I'LL BE DARNED.

SO, WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY?

LOOKS LIKE HE'S EMBARRASSED TO BE GIVING UP.

WELL, SINCE WE BOTH FOUGHT SO WELL..

...WE SHOULD BOTH--

COUGH!!

HACK!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NO, I HAVE A GUSHING NECK WOUND.

COME CLOSER, I CAN'T SHOUT.

IS...THIS CLOSE ENOUGH?

NO... LET ME WHISPER IN YOUR EAR.

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOME KIND OF POWWOW GOING ON!

BECAUSE OF ROTO'S WOUNDS, JOHN HAS TO STEP INSIDE ROTO'S RANGE.

IS ROTO TELLING JOHN ABOUT HIS TRUE FEELINGS?

OH MY!

THAT'S SOOOO ROMANTIC! TWO TIGERS, THEIR FORBIDDEN LOVE BLOSSOMING IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE...

THAT'S IT. NO MORE YAOI MANGA FOR YOU.

부끄...

...?!

"THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU'LL TAKE ME FOR GRANTED, ROTO!!"

.....!

"DON'T SAY THAT, JOHN! YOU CAN'T JUST THROW US AWAY!"

.....

.....

"HOLD ME. TELL ME YOU LOVE ME."

THAT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL! I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY!

YOU'RE NUTS...

휙

I WITHDRAW...

...FROM THIS TOURNAMENT.

JOHN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

RATHER THAN SEE THEIR LOVE CRUSHED BY AN UNCARING, UNFEELING WORLD, JOHN HAS ADOPTED A SUBMISSIVE POSTURE...

...AND THROWN IN THE TOWEL! ROTO AND YUREKA WIN THIS MATCH!

BUT THE REAL WINNERS HERE ARE ROTO AND JOHN!

THEIR LOVE CAN NOW FLOWER OUTSIDE OF THE CRUEL GAZE--

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE!

WORST... ANNOUNCER... EVER!

I'M GETTING BUTTER-FLIES!

SO HERE'S THE PLAN. YOU WITHDRAW.

NO, WAIT! JUST HEAR ME OUT!!

THIS IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE, TOO!!

WHAT?!

IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY, YOU CAN BLOW IT OUT YOUR--

확

I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS...

...BUT YUREKA...

...IS AN NPC. LIKE YOU.

WHAT?

YOU SAID SHE WASN'T A GUARDIAN!

SHE ISN'T. I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE IS, BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY AN AI.

I THINK SHE'S THE WORK OF A HACKER.

I'M AFRAID THAT IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT HER, SHE'LL BE DELETED.

JUST LIKE YOU, ONCE SHE'S GONE, SHE'S GONE FOREVER.

THIS COMPETITION ISN'T WORTH LOSING EITHER OF YOU.

I'M SURE RAPHA WOULD AGREE WITH ME.

YOU'RE NUTS.

NO! LISTEN TO ME! EITHER WAY, ONE TEAM WILL WIN, AND THE OTHER SIDE WILL LOSE A VALUABLE NPC.

BUT, IF ONE OF US WITHDRAWS, EVERYONE LIVES TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

BESIDES...

YOU CAN KEEP FIGHTING, BUT WHAT IF YOU GET KILLED? THERE'S NO RAPHA TO BRING YOU BACK.

YOU'RE MORE USEFUL NOW THAN EVER. DON'T THROW HER SACRIFICE AWAY!

DON'T BREAK...

...HER HEART!

.....

YOU'RE RIGHT.

HEH!

DUMBASS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY MAKE THESE NPCS SO GULLIBLE!

I HAD YOU THE MINUTE RAPHA SACRIFICED HERSELF.

YOUR LOYALTY TO YOUR MISTRESS MAKES YOU WEAK!

ANOTHER PLAYER...

...WOULD HAVE TOLD ME WHERE TO STICK IT!

.....

I WONDER WHAT I'D DO IF I WERE IN JOHN'S SHOES?

HI! HI! HI!

YUREKA, I'D MISS YOU.

COME BACK MR. FLUTTERBY! COME BACK!

파닥

WILL YOU SHUT UP?!

IF I WASN'T HURT SO BAD, I'D BREAK YOUR NECK!

SENSING HOSTILITY...

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE UP.

READY TO DO IT TO IT?

푸학

YOW!!

YOU KIDDING?

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR WEEKS!

GIVE ME THE CLOSE-UP FOR ONCE, AH-DOL!

I'M BAAACK!
DID YOU MISS ME?

SORRY FOR THE DELAY, I HAD A LITTLE... ACCIDENT.

BUT MERE DEATH CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MC DOWN!

IT COULDN'T EVEN KEEP ME DOWN!

SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR THE FIGHTERS OF OUR SECOND SEMI-FINAL MATCH!!

THE WINNER HAS THE HONOR OF FACING ROTO AND YUREKA IN THE FINALS!

IN THE RED CORNER, THE REMAINDER OF TEAM TRIPLE THREAT, WHO DEFEATED THEIR LAST OPPONENTS IN RECORD TIME...

...AH-DOL AND BOROMID!!

AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, THE MYSTERIOUS...

...AND QUITE RUDE...

...TEAM ARADON AND ALPHA!

YOU BOOKIES OUT THERE HAVE TO BE SWEATING, BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY TO PREDICT HOW THIS ONE'S GOING TO TURN OUT!

BOTH OF THESE TEAMS MADE SUCH A STRONG SHOWING IN THEIR LAST MATCH, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST FLIP A COIN!

GRR!

THIS TIME WE'RE READY FOR YOU, PRETTY BOY. WE WON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE YOU AGAIN.

SOMEBODY'S A POOR LOSER. WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT I HAD YOU EATING DIRT?

.....

HUH?

HUH?

YOU GUYS KNOW EACH OTHER?

DID YOU FIGHT ALREADY? WHAT HAPPENED?

YOUR FANS WANT TO KNOW HOW IT WENT DOWN! AND WHO WENT DOWN...

THAT WAS THEN! THIS IS NOW!

AND IN ABOUT TEN SECONDS, I'M GOING TO FLATTEN EVERYTHING IN THIS RING!

INCLUDING AH-DOL, IF HE DOESN'T STOP HOGGING ALL THE CLOSE-UPS!

OKAY! OKAY! WELL, I'LL JUST BE GOING THEN...

PSYCHO..

FIGHTERS... GO!!

HEY, ARADON, WHAT DO I HAVE BEHIND MY BACK? I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT.

I LOVE CROQUET! WHAT
IF WE USED THEIR HEAD
INSTEAD OF THOSE LITT
RED BALLS!

IT AIN'T FOR CROQUET!

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S BEEN HOLDING A GRUDGE. THAT'S NOT HEALTHY.

THEY'RE PULLING OUT THE BIG GUNS. YOU MUST HAVE REALLY TOUCHED A NERVE.

THAT'S THE HAMMER OF THOR, MJOLLNIR. IT'S A PRIEST'S MASTER ITEM...

...AND ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS IN THE GAME. BUT IT'S SO BIG, IT'S KIND OF SLOW.

AND THE LITTLE GUY'S JAW-CRACKER IS AN ELEMENT FIST!

IT CONTROLS FOUR KINDS OF ELEMENTAL MAGIC, BUT LIKE YOUR SWORD...

.ITS POWER IS BASED ON THE USER'S LEVEL.

KO!

THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.

TAKE A BREAK. I'LL HANDLE THESE GUYS.

WHAT? YOU SURE?

YEAH! YOU HOGGED THE LAST TWO CHUMPS. NOW IT'S MY TURN!

RING THE BELL! SCHOOL'S IN SESSION, SUCKAS!

AND MR. NINJA'S GOT SOME LESSONS FOR YA'LL

WHAT THE...?!

THERE ARE NO NINJAS IN LOST SAGA!

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STAGE 31
QUIT CLONING AROUND

TAKE YOUR SEATS, CLASS!

BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET SCHOOLED!

HEY...AH-DOL... EVER HEARD OF A NINJA CLASS?

CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE.

LOST SAGA IS SET IN A TOLKIEN-ESQUE EUROPEAN FANTASY MILIEU. WE'VE GOT **ASSASSINS...**

...BUT WHERE THAT FREAK CAME UP WITH A **NINJA** CLASS IS ANYONE'S GUESS.

TALKING IN CLASS? LOOKS I'VE GOT A DISCIPLINE PROBLEM ON MY HANDS.

LISTEN UP, KIDDOS, BECAUSE YOUR FIRST LESSON IS...

...WHY NINJA ARE CALLED...

...SHADOW WARRIORS!

THE

WHERE'D HE GO?!!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
...

DON'T TRUST YOUR EYES. THEY CAN DECEIVE YOU.
HOW'D YOU GET OVER THERE?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! HE'S OVER HERE!
HE IS?

BOTH OF HIM ARE OVER HERE!!

BACK TO YOUR EARLIER QUESTION, IS THERE A NINJA CLASS?

LET'S PUT THAT ONE TO A VOTE. WE VOTE "YES." AND WE'RE IN THE MAJORITY.

THAT'S CHEATING!

THERE'S DOZENS OF 'EM!!

THIS TOURNAMENT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TWO ON TWO!!

WHEN ONE NINJA YOU FACE...

I AM NINJA. NINJA AM I.

...YOU FACE US ALL.

DON'T TELL ME...

..ANOTHER EASTER EGG, RIGHT?

ANY BRIGHT IDEAS, AH-DOL?!

NOT REALLY.

BUT IT'S ALL GOT TO BE SMOKE AND MIRRORS!

IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION! THE REAL ALPHA'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

WE JUST HAVE TO SORT HIM OUT FROM THE PHONIES.

THINK THIS IS ALL JUST A BAD DREAM?

WELL, HERE'S YOUR WAKE-UP CALL!

GOOD MORNING!

GOT YER ASS!

HE DISAPPEARED! WAS THAT THE REAL ONE?!

SORRY, SHERLOCK!

TRY AGAIN!

YEEOW!

OKAY, SO I WAS WRONG.

THOSE DOUBLES CAN HIT PRETTY HARD.

THANKS FOR THE UPDATE. I HADN'T FIGURED THAT OUT!

I DON'T GET IT! WHY ARE YOU PICKING ON ME?!

THERE'S PLENTY OF AH-DOL RIGHT OVER THERE!!

BOROMID! I'VE GOT A PLAN! AND I THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT.

SMASH ANYTHING THAT MOVES!

GOOD PLAN. WHY DON'T I LISTEN TO YOU MORE OFTEN!

IF YOU'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA, I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT!!

HE'S SPLIT HIMSELF INTO TOO MANY CLONES! EACH ONE CAN'T POSSESS MORE THAN A FRACTION OF HIS POWER!

YOUR BUDDY MISSES YOU!

TWO DOWN! BUT WHERE'S THE REAL ALPHA?

BUH-BYE!

HH

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YOU'RE RIGHT, AH-DOL!

THEY'RE A BUNCH OF WIMPS! I COULD DO THIS ALL DAY!

REALLY? GO ON. I'M WATCHING.

YOU'RE NOT DONE YET!

JERK! GET YOUR FEET OFF MY CAPE!

EE

OOPSIE...

...DAISY!

URP!

BOROMID'S FLIPPED FOR ME!

BOROMID, DON'T FALL FOR THAT! DISTRACTION IS THEIR CHIEF WEAPON!

UGH!

FOLLOW YOUR OWN ADVICE.

HEY TEACH, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING DISTRACTED AND SETTING A TRAP...

...IS THE COUNTER-ATTACK!

REALLY? TELL ME MORE! I'M ALL EARS!

AS THE NUMBER OF DUPLICATES DECREASES EACH ONE GETS STRONGER. STILL, HE MUST HAVE TROUBLE CONTROLLING SO MANY.

THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO, AH-DOL?

I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM OUR LAST FIGHT.

BUT YOU'RE MAKING ALL THE SAME MISTAKES.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN WORTH MY TIME.

GET OVER YOURSELF, PUNK!!!

OWW! HANDS ON FIRE!!

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THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.

FIST OF FLAME!

HEY ARADON, I'VE GOT SOMETHING NEW TO SHOW YOU!

WHAT IS IT? I WANT TO SEE!

OOF!

YOU'LL GET A LOOK, TOO!!

ARE WE...

...PLAYING ...

...LEAP FROG?

.....

BECAUSE I'D RATHER PLAY FOUR-SQUARE!

I'LL USE ALPHA AS A SCREEN, AND...

...GET OFF MY ATTACK WHILE ARADON CAN'T SEE ME!

II

COLD! WHAT IF THAT HAD REALLY BEEN HIS PARTNER!

UNLESS...
...HE CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALPHA AND HIS CLONES!

THAT HURT.

YOU CUT ME HALF WITHOUT EVEN FLINCHING! YOU KNOW I HATE IT WHEN YOU DO THAT.

STOP FOOLING AROUND. IF THESE GUYS ARE TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE...

HMPH!

...SAY THE WORD AND I'LL HELP YOU OUT.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN.

휙

YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ME. I'M A PERSON TOO, YOU KNOW! SOMETIMES I'M LOTS OF PEOPLE! AND WE'VE ALL GOT FEELINGS!

IF YOU DON'T WATCH YOUR BACK, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ANYBODY.

WHATEVER. THAT'S COOL, I'M OVER IT.

벌떡

WELL, I'M WARMED UP! HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?

HUH?

?

YIKES! IT'S COMING DOWN!

BRACE YOURSELF, ARADON!!

HAMMER OF THE GODS, MAY YOUR THUNDER BE HEARD!

ALL TREMBLE AT THE NAME *MJOLLNIR!!*

HERE COMES THE SPLASH PAGE!

THAT MALLET'S PRETTY HANDY AGAINST MY SHADOW WARRIORS!

I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET IT AWAY FROM HIM!

GOOD WORK, BOROMID! YOU TOOK CARE OF ALL THE DOUBLES!

WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT BEFORE?!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A HAND.

.....

GOT PLENTY. BUT WHATEVER.

YOU TAKE BLONDIE. I'LL TAKE THE LITTLE ONE.

THAT WAS GREAT!

EVEN IF THOSE PANELS ON THE BOTTOM KINDA CLUTTERED IT UP!!

HOW ABOUT SOME MORE CLOSE-UPS?

NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING...

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STAGE 327
HIS GUY'S A GAS

FINE BY ME. HOLLER IF YOU NEED HELP.

OH, YOU'RE FINALLY JOINING US, ARADON? LOVELY. NICE SHORTS, BY THE WAY

'BOUT TIME. I WAS WONDERING WHEN I WAS GOING TO GET TO KICK YOUR BUTT!

EN GARDE!

BOROMID, I DON'T THINK MJOLLNIR AND ARADON HAVE BEEN NTRODUCED!

YOU'RE RIGHT! DREADFUL OVERSIGHT ON MY PART!

EH?

...IS GIVING ME HEADACHE.

ALL THIS HAMMERING ..

GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY SHAFT, WEIRDO!

THERE'S STILL ONE DOUBLE LEFT!

Frost Fist!

KOF

OVERCOMMITMENT. DANGEROUS.

KEEP TALKING, PUNK! I'M GOING TO POUND YOU!

GRRYAA!

HAMMER OF THE GODS, SMITE MY FOES!

YOUR WEAPON'S TOO HEAVY. YOU'RE TOO SLOW.

ゴゴゴ

YEAH? DEAL WITH IT!

HUH?!

CRACK

THE HAMMER HAS TO TOUCH THE GROUND FOR YOUR LIGHTNING ATTACK TO WORK, RIGHT?

LIKE I SAI
YOU'RE TO
SLOW!

SLOW? I'LL SHOW YOU SLOW!

THIS IS MJOLLNIR, HAMMER OF THE GODS...

...A FORCE UNSTOPPABLE!!!

ARRGH!

THAT SWORD OF YOURS, WITH THE SILLY NAME...

YOW!

..HOW GOOD IS IT? HOW'S IT DOING AGAINST...

...MY SLOW HAMMER?

HE'S BETTER THAN I THOUGHT!

I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN FOR A SECOND!

OOPS! LOOKS LIKE MY PARTNER'S IN TROUBLE. MIND IF I FINISH YOU QUICKLY SO I CAN HELP HIM OUT?

FUNNY...

...I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY THE SAME THING!

WELL, THEN... JINX!

LET'S GET IT ON!

SHADOW WARRIOR!!

ONLY THREE OF YOU THIS TIME? WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU OUT OF BREATH?

LIGHTNING FIST!

NAH. I JUST FIGURED I'D SHOW YOU MY OWN VERSION OF A TRIPLE THREAT

THE FEWER OF ME THERE ARE, THE TOUGHER EACH OF THEM WILL BE ON YOU!

NINJA RULES THE NIGHT!

I'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS GAME AS LONG AS ANYONE, AND I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A NINJA CLASS. BUT THIS CLONE ATTACK RINGS A BELL...

YOU'VE ONLY GOT TWO ARMS! HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BLOCK THREE ATTACKS?!

I'M NOT!

NICE TRY, BUT YOU CAN'T FLINCH YOUR WAY...

...OUT OF EVERY ATTACK!

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT YOU FORGOT OUR EARLIER LESSON...

EH?

ECHO

ECHO

ARRGH!

..ON SETTING A TRAP!

DRAGON KICK!

OOF!!

I HAD TO GET YOU CLOSE ENOUGH...

...TO TAKE YOU ALL OUT AT ONCE!

!!

THEY ALL DISAPPEARED! WERE ALL THREE OF THEM CLONES?!

WELL, YOU GET AN "A" FOR EFFORT, A "B" FOR STRATEGY, BUT AS FAR AS LEARNING LESSONS...

I HAD YOU!

...YOU FAIL!

SQUEEZE

SAY GOODNIGHT, DICK!!

TORNADO SUPLEX!!

WAAAAAA!!

NICE TRY, BUT TRYING TO OUT-SNEAK A NINJA?

THAT'S A CONTRADICTION WRAPPED AROUND AN OXYMORON!

GRRR...!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET UP, YOU KNOW. THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING BEATEN BY A BETTER OPPONENT.

YOU'RE GETTING TO BE A REAL PAIN IN THE NECK.

Fist of stone!

YOU HAVEN'T CONNECTED WITH ONE OF THOSE ELEMENT PUNCHES YET! YOU'RE OUT OF TRICKS. GIVE UP ALREADY!

.....!!

HEH HEH! COUGH COUGH! HACK!

HEE HEE!

WHAT ARE WE LAUGHING AT?

HIC!

SEE THIS STONE FIST? KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO ROCK UNDER HEAT AND PRESSURE?

...?!

NOOO...

LIKE AT THE EARTH'S CORE...

...ROCK AND FIRE COMBINE TO FORM...

...MAGMA Fist!!

NEATO!

FUSION MAGIC WITH YOUR ELEMENT FIST!

HEY, ALPHA. THERE IS NO NINJA CLASS IN THIS GAME, IS THERE? BUT I HAVE HEARD OF ALCHEMISTS USING A MYSTICAL GAS TO CONFUSE THEIR ENEMIES INTO SEEING MULTIPLE IMAGES OF THE SAME PERSON.

YOU HARDLY EVER RUN INTO AN ALCHEMIST, BECAUSE LEARNING ALCHEMY ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS GIBBING MOBS.

BUT WHEN YOU DROPPED THIS VIAL IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT SUPLEX, I KNEW I WAS RIGHT!

SO NOW MY QUESTION IS...HOW DO YOU LIKE THE SMELL OF YOUR OWN GAS!

HE WHO SMELT IT, DEALT IT!

SHADOW WARRIOR!!

I'VE GOT TO GET A MASK WITH A FILTER, BUT THE CHICKS REALLY DIG THIS ONE.

COUGH! HE WHO RHYMED COMMITTED THE CRIME!

WHY DON'T WE STOP ALL THIS FUTZING AROUND WITH POISON GAS AND KILL EACH OTHER LIKE CIVILIZED PEOPLE?

WHAT?!!

YOU STARTED IT!

EEEP! HE'S SCARY!

FINE! HIT ME WITH YOUR BEST SHOT, PUNK!

ICE JAVELIN!!

AH-DOL'S A WARRIOR, BUT HE'S RELYING ON HIS SUB-CLASS MAGICAL SKILLS... HE'S SETTING ME UP FOR SOMETHING...

HAI-YAH!

YAR!

THOR!
MOMMY!
YAIEEE!
WHAT NOW, THOR?
WITHOUT THAT HAMMER, YOU'RE THE SAME LOSER I PUNKED LAST TIME!

YEAH, BUT TODAY THIS LOSER'S READY FOR YOU.

READY TO DIE, MAYBE. SHEER POWER CAN'T WIN AGAINST A TRULY SKILLED OPPONENT.

YOU'RE ONLY PROLONGING YOUR INEVITABLE DEFEAT.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR BLADE.

LOOKS LIKE THE SWORD OF HARMONY IS OUT OF TUNE!

WHAT?! IT'S CRACKED!

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THOSE HAMMER BLOWS WERE DOING TO MY WEAPON! THIS BLADE'S HAD IT!

THAT HAMMER'S GOOD, BUT IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TOOL FOR EVERY JOB.

FOR SOMEONE YOUR SIZE, I SHOULD USE SOMETHING A LITTLE SMALLER.

LIKE A COUPLE OF OGRE SCIMITARS!!

HOW YA LIKE THEM APPLES?

HE'S STILL FIGHTING ME WITH HIS SUB-CLASS POWERS, AND I HAVEN'T LOOSED MY MAGIC ON HIM.

THIS BATTLE STILL HAS NOT TRULY BEGUN.

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STAGE 33
POWER OF THE DARKSIDE

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY...

...ARADON!!

I'M GOING TO PAY YOU BACK A THOUSAND TIMES FOR YOUR HUMILIATION!

.....

WHAT DID I DO TO YOU THAT WAS SO HUMILIATING!

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?!

YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU DON'T REMEMBER... EITHER.

I BEAT YOU FAIR AND SQUARE. BUT I DON'T REMEMBER...

...INTENTIONALLY HUMILIATING YOU, OR ANYONE ELSE.

DON'T TRY TALKING YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS!

MY GUMS START BLEEDING WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE THINGS YOU DID TO US!

I DON'T LIKE RELIVING BAD MEMORIES...

...BUT JUST THINK OF THE TIME WHEN YOU..

...WHEN YOU...

.....

HEY AH-DOL, WHAT DID THIS GUY DO TO US AGAIN?

JUST SHUT UP AND HIT HIM!

I'VE GOT MY OWN PROBLEMS OVER HERE!!

X'MACING PUPPY DOG EYES.

HEY, UM....ARADON? SO WHAT HAPPENED, YOU KNOW...THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT?

HOW BAD COULD IT HAVE BEEN IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER IT?

MAN.....

NOW YOU'RE FLAUNTING YOUR SUPERIOR MEMORY!!

ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE SMARTER THAN ME?! THAT IS SO HUMILIATING!

YOU'RE CRAZY.

SEE?! AND NOW YOU TAUNT ME!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE?! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR FACE!

JUST 'CAUSE THE CHICKS DIG YOU, YOU THINK YOU'RE ALL THAT

OH YEAH, WELL, HOW COME YOU'RE ON THIS PANEL AND I'M NOT?

TAKE IT WITH THE ARTIST DIDN'T DRAW THIS

AND YOU'RE A WEASEL, TOO! ALWAYS TRYING TO BLAME SOMEONE ELSE!!

POWER UP!

SO, YOU'RE FINALLY USING YOUR MASTER-CLASS POWERS?

THEN I GUESS I'D BETTER START USING MINE.

RIDERS OF THE WINDS, LORDS OF THE CLOUDS

HMPH! MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY A LESS COMPLICATED SPELL!

YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING LET YOU FINISH A SPELL LIKE THAT?

EAT CLEAVER, PRETTY BOY!

HEY! WHERE'D HE GO?

I'M SURE I TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE...

...BUT OVERCOMMITMENT LEADS TO MISSED ATTACKS.

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!

SORCERERS CAN'T MOVE WHILE THEY'RE CASTING A SPELL!

DID YOU USE SOME KIND OF MAGIC ITEM?

NOPE. I'M JUST WORKING ON THE INCANTATION BIT BY BIT.

EVER SEE STORM'S WRATH? IT'S A TREAT!

STORM'S WRATH? THAT'S LIKE THE MOST POWERFUL SPELL IN THE GAME!!

ONE HIT AND I'M TOAST!!

FINE! YOU FINISH YOUR SPELL I'LL BE GOING BENI-HANA ON YOUR ASS!

CONSIDER YOUR WEAPON'S RANGE. EVERY MISS IS AN OPENING FOR YOUR ENEMY.

YOU CAN'T REALLY MOVE AND CAST SPELLS!

YOU'LL LOSE YOUR CONCENTRATION! EVEN IF YOU GET THE SPELL OFF, IT'LL BE...

...HALF-STRENGTH AT BEST!!

LIKE YOU SAID, IT'S ALL A MATTER OF CONCENTRATION.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

JUST BECAUSE I'M MOVING AND TALKING TO YOU...

HUFF

HUFF

...DOESN'T MEAN MY CONCENTRATION'S WAVERING IT'S NOT LIKE THIS CONVERSATION IS TAKING UP MUCH BRAINPOWER!

I'VE TRAINED MYSELF TO BE ABLE TO FINISH MY SPELLS WITH ALL KINDS OF ANNOYANCES. AND BELIEVE ME, YOU'RE PLENTY ANNOYING.

YOU THINK THAT'S ANNOYING? WELL TRY THIS! NYA NYA NYA NA NA!

NICE TRY.

BUT MY INCANTATION IS COMPLETE.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE...

STORM'S...

...WRATH!

STORM'S A-BREWIN'.

AND

HEH HEH

OH

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C'MON, BABY! MAKE DADDY PROUD!

HIS SWORD ABSORBED THE LIGHTING BOLT...

...LIKE A LIGHTNING ROD!

OGRE SCIMITAR, MEET ARADON'S FACE! ARADON'S FACE, MEET OGRE SCIMITAR!

UGH!!

UH OH! SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE NOW!

GRR!!

WHERE'D YOU GET THAT THING? A CRACKERJACK BOX?

HUH?

SWORD OF LIGHT...

...GLADIAT, AWAKE!

YOW!

BOROMID!!

TSK! TSK! DIDN'T HE SEE *EMPIRE*?

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A BACK-UP BLADE, BOROMID!

MINE IS THE WARRIOR MASTER ITEM, GLADIAT. AND AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S TOTALLY KICK-ASS!

UGH...

NICE FLASHLIGHT, DORK! BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT...

...TO PIERCE THE SHIELD OF HALYCON!!

BURP!

KAFF

KAFF

I'M BLEEDING?

ARMOR HAS NOT BEEN MADE...

...THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE MIGHT OF GLADIAT!

I'LL NEVER RULE THE UNIVERSE WITH YOU!

IS THAT YOU, LEIA?

THAT WAS FUN. BOROMIR DID A GOOD JOB, BUT ARAGON'S ONE TOUGH COOKIE.

.....

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

OR I'LL HIT YOU SO HARD YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK!

WANT TO TRY THAT AGAIN?

YOUR THREAT GOT TANGLED AROUND YOUR TAUNT.

ONE MORE SMART-ASS COMMENT...

...AND YOU'RE HISTORY.

REALLY?

WHAT IF I MAKE TWO MORE SMART-ASS COMMENTS?

1. AH-DOL, YOUR MOUTH'S WRITING CHECKS YOUR BUTT CAN'T CASH.
2. UNLESS YOU GIVE UP RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO BURY YOU NEXT TO BOROMIR!

GOT IT?

YOU'RE *REALLY* PISSING ME OFF!!

I'M GONNA RIP YOU APART!!

HE'S FAST...
REAL FAST.

HE'S TOO DANGEROUS...

...TO FACE HEAD ON.

GOTCHA!

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?!

YIP!!

WHAT? YOU'RE NOT DEAD?!

STAY PUT, ARADON. YOU FINISHED YOURS ALREADY.

YOU SURE?

HE'S...MINE. I CAN'T LET YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN.

HE HEALED HIMSELF LIKE A PRIEST! WHAT CLASS IS HE?!

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6_

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